

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 380

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Town of Signal Mountain on the occasion of that community's ninetieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should specially recognize those historic Tennessee communities that have contributed to the culture, character, and prosperity of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Signal Mountain is one such estimable community, and on April 4, 2009, its leaders and citizens celebrated the town's ninetieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the plateau known as Walden's Ridge was a familiar landmark to the Creek and Cherokee Indians who lived in the area; it is said that the tribes used the point of land overlooking the Tennessee River to signal important messages; and

WHEREAS, during the War Between the States, the Union Army used the same point as a relay station; it eventually became known as Signal Point, and today it is the smallest park in the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, when cholera and yellow fever threatened the people of Chattanooga in the late nineteenth century, affluent families, possessed of the resources to do so, fled to the mountains surrounding the city to avoid the contagion; and

WHEREAS, one Chattanooga, Charles E. James, became so enamored of the land near Signal Point that he bought forty-four hundred acres there, named his purchase Signal Point City, and began selling lots; and

WHEREAS, by 1913, Mr. James had built the Signal Mountain Inn, a grand hotel in its day; he laid electric railroad line from Chattanooga up Walden's Ridge to carry people to and from his town; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James added a golf club to his resort in 1918, but he soon encountered a rather vexing problem: because farmers had long been bringing their livestock to graze on Walden's Ridge in the spring and leaving them there until fall, Mr. James frequently found cows and pigs roaming the fairways and relaxing on his new greens. The townspeople often discovered livestock in their yards, and the animals proved difficult to evict; and

WHEREAS, local leaders chartered the Town of Signal Mountain on April 4, 1919, and the first order of business for the town's officials, Mayor Charles E. James and Commissioners E. M. Ellsworth and Fred A. Bryan, was to outlaw animals in Signal Mountain and hire a man with a horse to corral the errant animals and prevent farmers from grazing their cows and pigs in the community; and

WHEREAS, by 1925, two hundred homes had been built in Signal Mountain, and most of them stood near the Signal Mountain Inn and golf course; today, the growing community includes nearly twenty-six hundred homes and boasts a population of over seven thousand; and

WHEREAS, towns such as Signal Mountain add immeasurably to the strength and character of Tennessee; their history and citizenry have helped to build the cultural richness and integrity for which this State is known; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the Town of Signal Mountain on the occasion of that community's ninetieth anniversary and extend to its citizens and leaders our best wishes for continued prosperity in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.